

State became the first and only American Colony whose Government pledged itself to the protection of the human conscience.

The spirit of the early Maryland Pilgrims, which has ever characterized our citizens, still manifests itself. It came down to us through the war of the Revolution. Not only did it express itself at the Annapolis Tea Party, and at the Battle of North Point, which gave us the Star Spangled Banner, but of even greater importance, it resides today in our people, who still insist upon deciding their own problems, without unnecessary interference, without recourse to prejudice or backward fears.

Another and more earthly reason which brought the Ark and Dove to our shores, was that the Pilgrims were looking for a desirable place to live, and history does not record that they regretted their choice. Generations following them agreed that they could not have found a more desirable location. Here they found a tidewater, rich with the yield of its produce; here was fertile soil to grow their crops; rivers to link the inland settlements with the waterfront; here were mountains where scenic grandeur united with minerals and timber; here was a climate that was temperate, and a geographical location that was central; here was the threshold of the South—the gateway to the North. . . .

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## DEDICATION OF THE NEW CITY HALL

March 31, 1940

Hagerstown

**T**HIS afternoon's ceremonies mark another important milestone in the progress of Washington County's most important city. Just as we look back with great interest to the succession of forward movements that have signalized the history of Hagerstown since the day of its founding in the Eighteenth Century, so through this very modern, yet tasteful, new community building, we may look forward with interest to the years of continued progress that lie ahead.

While rejoicing with you at the advancement so clearly evidenced in this new City Hall, I am sure that all of us will look back, too, with just a tinge of regret at the passing of the old City Hall, which had served the people of Hagerstown so well for more than a century. It was a happy thought to choose for this new building the type of architecture, which has been so much a part of Maryland since its establishment 306 years ago.

Certainly this new edifice is one that not only will contribute immeasurably to the convenience of the people of Hagerstown, and to the economical and efficient administration of the City's affairs, but of equal importance from the aesthetic side, it brings an added measure of dignity and charm to the physical beauties of your attractive City. A source of satisfaction, too, to the true Marylander is the fact that there was used in the construction of this building much of native limestone, which has a quality that makes it particularly suitable and impressive in a building of this type.

Not often does one have the dual privilege which has fallen to my lot of officiating in the official opening of such a building as this. It seems but a